IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A~~n insertion plate,~~ system comprising:

a two-piece intervertebral disc replacement device including,

a first member having a first mounting hole and a first bone screw hole; and

a second member having a second mounting hole and a second bone screw hole, and

an insertion plate including,

a base having a perimeter;

a first mounting element of the base operable to engage ~~a~~the first mounting hole of ~~a~~the first member of ~~a~~the two-piece intervertebral disc replacement device~~, the first member including a first bone screw hole~~;

a second mounting element of the base operable to engage ~~a~~the second mounting hole of ~~a~~the second member of the two-piece intervertebral disc replacement device~~, the second member including a second bone screw hole~~, wherein the perimeter does not extend over the first and second bone screw holes when the first and second mounting elements cooperate to engage and orient the first and second members of the two-piece intervertebral disc replacement device for simultaneous insertion into an intervertebral disc space of a spinal column; and

a stem extending away from an anteriorly directed surface of the base and operable to facilitate movement of the intervertebral disc replacement device and insertion thereof into the intervertebral disc space such that the first and second members may be at least one of inserted into and moved within the intervertebral disc space without substantially changing their orientation with respect to one another, the stem being sized and shaped for engagement with an insertion handle

to further facilitate movement of the intervertebral disc replacement device, wherein one of the stem and the insertion handle includes a bore and the other of the stem and the insertion handle includes a tapered shaft that frictionally engages the bore to facilitate detachable engagement with one another.

2. (currently amended) The ~~insertion plate~~ system of claim 1, wherein:

each of the first and second members include articulation surfaces that cooperate to facilitate articulation of adjacent vertebral bones of the intervertebral disc space when the intervertebral disc replacement device is disposed in the intervertebral disc space; and

the insertion plate cooperates to orient the articulation surfaces in substantial registration with one another for simultaneous insertion into the intervertebral disc space.

3. (currently amended) The ~~insertion plate~~ system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second mounting elements includes a flange having a mounting hole therethrough, the mounting hole for receiving a fastener to couple the flange to at least one of the first and second mounting holes of the first and second members of the intervertebral disc replacement device.

4. (currently amended) The ~~insertion plate~~ system of claim 3, wherein the fastener is a mounting screw operable to engage and at least one of the first and second mounting holes is a threaded bore.

5. (currently amended) The ~~insertion plate~~ system of claim 1, further comprising a ledge member extending from a posteriorly directed surface of the base, the ledge member being sized and shaped to extend at least partially between the first and second members of the intervertebral disc replacement device such that they may be at least one of inserted into and moved within the intervertebral disc space without substantially changing their orientation with respect to one another.

6. (currently amended) The ~~insertion plate~~ system of claim 5, wherein the ledge member includes first and second spaced apart surfaces, at least one of the first and second spaced apart surfaces of the ledge member being contoured for engagement with respective surfaces of the first and second members of the intervertebral disc replacement device, the first surface of the ledge member being curved and the second surface of the ledge member being flat.

7. (currently amended) The ~~insertion plate~~ system of claim 5, wherein at least one of:

each of the first and second mounting elements includes a flange having a mounting hole therethrough, the mounting holes for receiving respective fasteners to couple the flanges to respective ones of the first and second mounting holes of the first and second members of the intervertebral disc replacement device;

the mounting holes are oriented in a direction substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the spinal column; and

the ledge member extends in a direction along the posteriorly directed surface of the base that is substantially transverse with respect to the longitudinal axis of the spinal column.

Claims 8-12 (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The ~~insertion plate~~ system of claim 1, wherein the base is operable to detachably engage the first mounting hole on a flange of the first member of the intervertebral disc replacement device, and to detachably engage the second mounting hole on a flange of the second member of the intervertebral disc replacement device, wherein the first and second flanges include the first and second bone screw holes for receiving bone screws for fastening the first and second members to respective adjacent vertebral bones of the intervertebral disc space of the spinal column, and the base cooperates to orient the first and second bone screw holes of the first and second flanges of the intervertebral disc replacement device to have a configuration substantially similar to that of a spinal fusion plate when viewed from an anterior vantage point.

14. (currently amended) The ~~insertion plate~~ system of claim 13, wherein the base cooperates to maintain the first and second members of the intervertebral disc replacement device in a substantially registered orientation for simultaneous insertion into the intervertebral disc space.

15. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ system for replacing at least a portion of an intervertebral disc in a spinal column, comprising:

first and second members of an intervertebral disc replacement device, the first member including a first mounting hole and a first bone screw hole and the second member including a second mounting hole a second bone screw hole, the first and second members being engagable with each other and operable to articulate with respect to each other; and

an insertion plate detachably coupled to each of the first and second mounting holes of the first and second members of the intervertebral disc replacement device and operable to orient them for simultaneous insertion into an intervertebral disc space of the spinal column defined by respective endplates of adjacent vertebral bones, the insertion plate including:

a base having a perimeter;

a first mounting element of the base operable to engage the first mounting hole of the first member of an intervertebral disc replacement device;

a second mounting element of the base operable to engage the second mounting hole of the second member of the intervertebral disc replacement device, wherein the perimeter does not extend over the first and second bone screw holes when the first and second mounting elements cooperate to engage and orient the first and second members of the intervertebral disc replacement device in a configuration substantially similar to that of a spinal fusion plate when viewed from an anterior vantage point for simultaneous insertion into an intervertebral disc space of a spinal column; and

a stem extending away from an anteriorly directed surface of the base and operable to facilitate movement of the intervertebral disc replacement device and insertion thereof into the intervertebral disc space such that the first and second members may be at least one of inserted into and moved within the intervertebral disc space without substantially changing their orientation with respect to one another, the stem being sized and shaped for engagement with an insertion handle to further facilitate movement of the intervertebral disc replacement device, wherein one of the stem and the insertion handle includes a bore and the other of the stem and the insertion handle includes a tapered shaft that frictionally

engages the bore to facilitate detachable engagement with one another.

16. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 15, wherein the apparatus is at least part of a sterile assembly disposed in a sealed package.

Claims 17-20 (canceled)